

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9753

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TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO MEETING ON DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS ON PRESERVATION
OF HISTORIC SITES AND MONUMENTS, WARSAW, FEB 9-18

REF STATE 31155, WARSAW 0847

1. BY FEBRUARY 10, 6 P.M., THERE HAVE BEEN 13 AMENDMENTS
INTRODUCED RE PARTS I AND II OF SUBJECT DOCUMENT. MOST
OF THESE ARE OF EDITORIAL NATURE AND PRESENT NO PROBLEM.

2. HOWEVER, THERE ARE FEW (SEE TEXTS BELOW) WHICH ATTEMPT
TO EXPAND OR ADD NEW DEFINITIONS AND/OR PRINCIPLES ON
WHICH U.S. DEL WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE,
EVEN THOUGH THEY SEEM TO BE PERFECTLY IN ORDER FROM
THE SUBSTANTIVE POINT OF VIEW.

3. FRENCH AMENDMENT RE SECTION I, PARAS. 1, 2 AND 3:

"1. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE PRESENT RECOMMENDATION,
A "HISTORIC OR TRADITIONAL AREA" SHALL BE TAKEN TO MEAN
ANY GROUP OF BUILDINGS AND OPEN SPACES CONSTITUTING A
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HUMAN SETTLEMENT IN AN URBAN OR RURAL ENVIRONMENT, THE

COHESION AND VALUE OF WHICH, FROM THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL, ARCHITECTURAL, HISTORIC, AESTHETIC OR SOCIO-CULTURAL POINT OF VIEW ARE RECOGNIZED".

"AMONG THESE "AREAS", WHICH ARE VERY VARIED IN NATURE, IT IS POSSIBLE TO DISTINGUISH THE FOLLOWING IN PARTICULAR: THE CENTRES OF TOWNS ROUND WHICH THE URBAN FABRIC HAS GRADUALLY BEEN BUILT UP, QUARTERS AND OLD OUTLYING DISTRICTS THAT HAVE BECOME SWALLOWED UP BY EXPANSION, AS WELL AS TOWNS, VILLAGES AND HOMOGENEOUS MONUMENTAL GROUPS, IT BEING UNDERSTOOD THAT THE LATTER SHOULD AS A RULE BE CAREFULLY PRESERVED UNCHANGED."

"2. THE "ENVIRONMENT" SHALL BE TAKEN TO MEAN....."

"3. "SAFEGUARDING" SHALL BE TAKEN TO MEAN THE IDENTIFICATION, PROTECTION, CONSERVATION, MAINTENANCE, RESTORATION, RENOVATION AND REVITALIZATION OF HISTORIC OR TRADITIONAL AREAS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT."

4. USSR AMENDMENT RE SECTIONS I AND II, PARAS 2 AND 6:

SECTION I--DEFINITIONS, ADD THE FOLLOWING AFTER PARA 2:

"A "HISTORIC AREA" SHALL ALSO BE TAKEN TO MEAN AN AREA IN AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL REGION WHICH IS OF CULTURAL INTEREST AND WHICH CONTAINS THE REMAINS OF A MATERIAL CULTURE CONNECTED WITH THE HISTORY OF AN INHABITED PLACE OR WITH THE HISTORY OF THE PERIOD PRECEDING ITS SETTLEMENT".

SECTION II--GENERAL PRINCIPLES, ADD THE FOLLOWING AFTER PARA 6:

"IN THE CONDITIONS OF MODERN URBANIZATION, WHICH LEADS TO A SUDDEN INCREASE IN THE SCALE AND DENSITY OF BUILDINGS, APART FROM THE DANGER OF THE PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION OF HISTORIC AREAS, THERE IS A VERY REAL DANGER OF THEIR "MORAL" DESTRUCTION OR DISTORTION IN CASES WHERE THEY ARE IN THE IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORHOOD OF NEW REGIONS."

"IN ORDER TO AVERT THIS DANGER, THE ATTITUDE OF DISINTERESTEDNESS IN THE HERITAGE WHICH HAS GROWN UP AMONG CERTAIN MODER ARCHITECTS SHOULD PERHAPS BE CAREFULLY CLARIFIED OR EVEN MODIFIED".

"THE THOUGHTFUL AND CREATIVE COMBINATION OF HISTORIC AREAS WITH NEW ARCHITECTURAL AREAS COULD BE AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PRESERVING THE HISTORIC HERITAGE AND MAKING IT UNCLASSIFIED

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PART OF MODERN LIFE."

5. DRAFTING COMMITTEE (FOR COMPOSITION SEE WARSAW 0821) WILL MEET FEBRUARY 13, A.M., FOR PURPOSE OF WORKING OUT ONE TEXT COMPRISING VARIOUS SUBSTANTIVE POINTS IN FRENCH AND SOVIET ABOVE DR'S.

6. COMMENT: U.S. DEL BELIEVES THAT ALL RPT ALL DR'S

SUBMITTED THUS FAR, INCLUDING THAT OF USSR, ARE
OF STRICTLY SUBSTANTIVE NATURE AND NOT INTENDED TO CREATE
ANY POLITICAL PROBLEM.

7. DEPARTMENT'S IMMEDIATE RESPONSE WOULD BE GREATLY
APPRECIATED.
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